

STATUS OF THE CLAIMS

1. (Currently Amended) A method of protecting a part made of composite material containing carbon against oxidation, the part presenting residual open internal pores, the method ~~comprising using a solution~~including the steps of providing an impregnation composition containing at least one metal phosphate, and being characterized in that it comprises at least one step of applying an impregnation composition containing at least one metal phosphate and in solution together with titanium diboride in powder form and impregnating said part with the impregnation composition.

2. (Currently Amended) A method according to claim 1, ~~characterized in that~~wherein titanium diboride is present in the impregnation composition in the form of a powder having grain size lying in the range 0.1  $\mu\text{m}$  to 200  $\mu\text{m}$ .

3. (Currently Amended) A method according to claim 1, ~~characterized in that~~wherein the impregnation composition also contains a refractory solid filler.

4. (Currently Amended) A method according to claim 3, ~~characterized in that~~wherein the additional refractory solid filler is selected from silica, aluminum, clays, kaolin, and talc.

5. (Currently Amended) A method according to claim 1, ~~characterized in that~~wherein the impregnation composition contains at least one metal phosphate selected from aluminum, zinc, and magnesium phosphates.

6. (Currently Amended) A method according to claim 1, ~~characterized in that~~wherein the impregnation composition contains, in percentage by weight, 20% to 70% metal phosphate(s), 5% to 50% titanium diboride, 20% to 50% water, and 0% to 40% refractory solid filler other than titanium diboride.

7. (Currently Amended) A method according to claim 1, ~~characterized in that it includes~~further including a preliminary stage of treating the composite material part by impregnating it with a solution containing a wetting agent, and drying it, so as to confer wettability on the composite material that is increased by the presence of the wetting agent.

8. (Currently Amended) A method according to claim 1, ~~characterized in that it includes~~further including at least one step of applying a solution of at least one metal phosphate without any solid filler, prior to applying the impregnation composition containing at least metal phosphate in solution and titanium diboride.

9. (Withdrawn) A composite material part containing carbon and provided with protection against oxidation that comprises at least one metal phosphate, the part being characterized in that the protection against oxidation also comprises titanium diboride.

10. (Withdrawn) A part according to claim 9, characterized in that the protection against oxidation further comprises refractory solid filler.

11. (Withdrawn) A part according to claim 9, characterized in that the protection against oxidation presents a higher content of titanium diboride in a portion situated close to a surface of the part than in a portion that is further away deep under the surface of the part.

12. (Currently Amended) A method according to claim 2, ~~characterized in that~~wherein the impregnation composition also contains a refractory solid filler.

13. (Currently Amended) A method according to claim 12, ~~characterized in that~~wherein:

the additional refractory solid filler is selected from silica, aluminum, clays, kaolin, and talc;

the impregnation composition contains at least one metal phosphate selected from aluminum, zinc, and magnesium phosphates;

the impregnation composition contains, in percentage by weight, 20% to 70% metal phosphate(s), 5% to 50% titanium diboride, 20% to 50% water, and 0% to 40% refractory solid filler other than titanium diboride;

it includes a preliminary stage of treating the composite material part by impregnating it with a solution containing a wetting agent, and drying it, so as to confer wettability on the composite material that is increased by the presence of the wetting agent;

it includes at least one step of applying a solution of at least one metal phosphate without any solid filler, prior to

applying the impregnation composition containing at least metal phosphate in solution and titanium diboride.

14. (Withdrawn) A part according to claim 10, characterized in that the protection against oxidation presents a higher content of titanium diboride in a portion situated close to a surface of the part than in a portion that is further away deep under the surface of the part.